

## **When Every Second Counts: Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina**

**Satellite Conference  
Tuesday, February 14, 2006  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (Central Time)**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

## **Faculty**

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## **Program Objectives**

- Understand how to better prepare and plan for future disasters.
- Outline standard processes to ensure successful disaster planning.
- Identify and evaluate opportunities during a disaster that can be improved.

## **Hurricane Katrina Affects... Biloxi, Mississippi**

- Distribution site manager
  - With mobile kitchen and medical unit
- Supplies provided:
  - Water
  - Juice
  - Food (hot & MREs)
  - Ice
  - Basic medical supplies
  - Diapers & baby formula
  - Canned goods
  - Cleaning supplies
  - Toiletries
  - Others

## **Biloxi's Distribution Site Team**

- First Baptist Church Biloxi
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Disaster Relief
- Community Volunteers
- Church Volunteers
- Police Officers
- City Waste Management
- City Officials
- Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

## **Biloxi's Distribution Site Team**

- American Red Cross
- AmeriCorps
- FEMA
- Homeland Security
- U.S., Dutch, & Mexican Navy
- Marines
- Local, National, & International Media
- Additional Volunteer Groups
- Others

### **Hurricane Katrina's Aftermath... "Blame Game"**

- If only...
  - "They" would have responded faster.
  - "They" would have evacuated.
  - "They" would have communicated.

### **When My Journey Began... Observations**

- Wasted time and resources.
- Unsatisfied disaster victims, volunteers, and community partners.
- Lack of appropriate communication strategy.

### **When My Journey Began... Observations**

- Unclear roles and responsibilities for community groups.
- Uncoordinated services between community partners (duplication of services).
- Insufficient mental health services for volunteers.

### **The Next Step... Planning Functions Needed**

- Governance & Infrastructure Management
- Cost Management
- Quality Management
- Risk Management
- Communication Management
- Volunteer Management

### **Mitigate Impact To Future Disasters... Plan, Plan, Plan**

- Identify team members.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Create infrastructure.
- Outline communication strategy.
- Practice and maintain the plan.

### **The Desired State**

- Rapidly mobilize resources
- Maximize efficiencies
- Minimize impact
- Efficiently assess and respond to needs

### **How to Respond... Recommendations**

- **Community partner teams**
  - Local, state, & national levels
- **Central command center**
- **Communication strategy**
- **Ensure volunteers trained and apply**
  - Skill set
  - Background checks
- **Distribution site**
  - Warehouse location

### **Upcoming Programs**

**Preventing Fetal Alcohol  
Spectrum Disorders**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2006**  
**2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Central Time)**

**Diabetes Update: Proactive Steps  
for Healthy Foot Care**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2006**  
**2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Central Time)**

**For complete listing of upcoming  
programs visit: [www.adph.org/alphn](http://www.adph.org/alphn)**